

BETWEEN FLORENCE AND AVIGNON

scourges upon us, for it is just. I beseech you, do what you have to do manfully and with fear of God."

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Already the dyer's daughter of Siena could address the Sovereign Pontiff in terms almost dictatorial. And, indeed, Gregory had need of such virile counsellors. His newly created Cardinal du Puy had been compelled to surrender the citadel of Perugia to the insurgents, on January I, 1376. A fortnight later, the Florentine force returned to Florence in triumph, crowned with garlands of olive, to the sound of music and the pealing of bells. Hardly had Catherine returned to Siena when, on the very day of the surrender of the citadel of Perugia, Donato Barbadori again appeared as ambassador at Pisa, sent by the Eight to that city and to Lucca, once more to demand the abandonment of their neutrality. And, on March 13, the Signoria of Florence wrote exultantly to Bernabo Visconti: " Yesterday, by the grace of God, we concluded the league with the Pisans and the Luccese." ² Nevertheless, in thus joining the league under compulsion, neither Piero Gambacorti nor the Anziani of Lucca intended to undertake any hostile measures against the Pope, and the latter Republic had expressly stipulated that none of the confederates should be compelled to help any other who should occupy possessions of the Church.

Immediately after the surrender of the citadel of Perugia, the Signoria of Florence addressed an impassioned appeal to the Romans, through Coluccio Salutati, the famous chancellor of the Republic, one of whose letters in after years was to seem more formidable to Gian Galeazzo Visconti than an army of twenty thousand men. God has had compassion upon Italy, he wrote, and has raised up the spirit of her peoples against the most foul tyranny of barbarians. This must be particularly pleasing to the

¹ Letter 185 (i), corrected by the Harleian MS. Catherine wrote simultaneously to the Archbishop of Otranto, urging him fearlessly to tell the Pope the truth about what seemed to him to be for the honour of God and the renovation of the Church ; and to the papal secretary, Niccolò da Osimo, offering Fra Raimondo for the Church's service. Letters 183 (33) and 181 (40).

² Gherardi, *op cit.*, doc. 183.